

Claims

1. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for dispensing medication comprising:
 - at least one canister containing the medication to be dispensed, said canister being movable in a first and a second direction;
 - a mouthpiece providing a point of dispensation for the medication from the canister to a user when the canister is moved in the first direction;
 - a switch means for completing an electrical circuit when said canister moves in said first direction and opening the electrical circuit when said canister moves in the second direction, wherein the switch means is oriented to enable operational connectivity with the canister or canister discharge;
 - a counter module for performing a count upon the closure of the electrical circuit and displaying a dispensation history of the medication in the at least one canister;
 - a ramp that is contacted by a ferrule portion of the canister in a direction substantially non-axial to the first direction and which acts upon the switch means when the canister is moved in the first direction; and
 - a seal isolating the counter module from the mouthpiece and the canister to prevent contamination.
2. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the dispensation history includes the number of doses of medication remaining in the canister.
3. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the dispensation history includes the number of doses taken of a dosage sequence.
4. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the dispensation history includes the number of doses taken over a period of time.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the period of time can be varied by

a user.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the dispensation history includes time since the last dispensation of the medication.

Claims 7 -9. Previously Cancelled.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch means includes an electrically conductive contact imbedded in the seal.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least portion of the counter module is disposed in the mouthpiece.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the counter module is disposed external to the mouthpiece.

13. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the seal also isolates the ramp and switches means.

14. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch means is mounted on a circuit board.

15. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the seal is made of conductive material.

Claims 16-44. Previously Cancelled.

45. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the counter, ramp and seal are formed in a common component.

46. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a sump for a

nozzle of the canister wherein said counter, ramp, seal and sump are formed as a common component.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the common component is injection moldable.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the common component is injection moldable.

Claim 49-54. Previously Cancelled.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ramp further permits travel of the ferrule over the ramp to allow opening of the canister valve after acting on the switch means.

56. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for the dispensation of medication comprising:

at least one canister containing the medication to be dispensed, said canister being movable in a first and a second direction;

a switch means for completing an electrical circuit when said canister moves in said first direction and opening the electrical circuit when said canister moves in the second direction, wherein the switch means is oriented to enable operational connectivity with the canister or canister discharge;

a counter module for performing a count upon the closure of the electrical circuit and displaying a dispensation history of the medication in the at least one canister wherein the count is performed before the medication is dispensed; and

a ramp that is contacted by a ferrule portion of the canister in a direction substantially non-axial to the first direction and which acts upon the switch means when the canister is moved in the first direction.